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P107314-00016TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

DATE: November 9, 2000

U.S. APPLN. NO.
(IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.5)

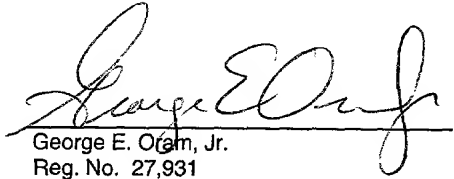
09/674489

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/JP00/01365INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
March 7, 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
March 9, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION: CAMERA SIGNAL PROCESSOR AND CAMERA SIGNAL PROCESSING METHOD

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: Yukio MORI; Seiji OKADA; Shoichi HASEGAWA

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
(THE BASIC FILING FEE IS ATTACHED)
 2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT articles 22 and 39(1).
 4. ☐ A proper demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
 5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
 6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
 8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
 10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
(Amendment Under Article 34)
- Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:
11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
 12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
 13. ☐ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
 14. ☐ A substitute specification.
 15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
 16. ☒ Other items or information:
 - Check No. 304617
 - Drawing(s) 3 sheets
 - International Search Report
 - Notification of Receipt of Record Copy (PCT/IB/301)
 - Notification Concerning Submission of Priority Documents (PCT/IB/304)
 - Notice Informing the Applicant of the Communication of the International Application to the Designated Offices (PCT/IB/308)
 - Front Page of International Bulletin No. WO00/54508

U.S. APPLN. NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 C.F.R. 1.50) 09/674489	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/01365	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. P107314-00016 DATE: November 9, 2000
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$860.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)....\$690.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).....\$760.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) or international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....\$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)\$100.00		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY <hr/>
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		\$ 860.00
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than _ 20 _ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).		
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra
Total Claims	8 - 20 =	0
Independent Claims	2 - 3 =	0
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)		+ \$270.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =		\$ 1130.00
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).		
SUBTOTAL =		\$ 1130.00
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later the _ 20 _ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).		+
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =		\$ 1130.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property		\$ 40.00
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =		\$ 1170.00
		Amount to be refunded \$
		Charged \$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>1170.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>01-2300</u> in the amount of \$ <u> </u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>01-2300</u> .		
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.		
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn, PLLC 1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20036-5339 Telephone No. (202) 857-6000 Facsimile No. (202) 638-4810		
		 George E. Oram, Jr. Reg. No. 27,931

3/ppts.

DESCRIPTION

CAMERA SIGNAL PROCESSOR AND

CAMERA SIGNAL PROCESSING METHOD

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a camera signal processor for detecting the motion of an image and processing a camera signal depending on the detected motion of the image and a camera signal processing method.

Background Art

JP-A-8-125910 discloses a camera pursuing a subject. That is, the color of the subject is previously registered in the camera. When the registered color appears in an image picked up by the camera, the initial position of the subject is detected from information relating to the color. Thereafter, a motion vector of the subject is detected, to control the direction of the camera such that the subject is pursued depending on the detected motion vector.

In the camera, the color of the subject must be previously specified in order to detect the subject. In a system for imaging an unspecified subject, for example, a monitoring system using a monitoring camera, it is difficult to detect the subject in the

same method as that in the above-mentioned camera.

An object of the present invention is to provide a camera signal processor capable of detecting, even when the color of a subject is not previously specified, the subject and enlarging and displaying the subject and a camera signal processing method.

Disclosure of Invention

A camera signal processor according to the present invention is characterized by comprising motion detection means for dividing an image picked up by imaging means into a plurality of motion detection areas, and detecting the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas; extracting means for extracting, on the basis of the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas which has been detected by the motion detection means, the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists; and image enlarging means for enlarging the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists which has been extracted by the extracting means and displaying the enlarged image on a display device.

An example of the extracting means is one for extracting, out of the motion detection areas, the

motion detection area where the motion of the image which has been detected by the motion detection means coincides with an abnormal motion pattern previously set as an area where an object making abnormal motion exists.

An example of the image enlarging means is one comprising group forming means for grouping, out of the motion detection areas where an object making abnormal motion exists which have been extracted by the extracting means, the areas where an object making abnormal motion exists such that the areas connected to each other form one group, center-of-gravity detecting means for extracting, out of groups formed by the group forming means, the group having the largest area, and finding the center of gravity of the extracted group, and scaling-up means for scaling up the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the center of gravity found by the center-of-gravity detecting means, and displaying the scaled-up image on a display device.

A camera signal processing method according to the present invention is characterized by comprising the first step of dividing an image picked up by imaging means into a plurality of motion detection areas, and detecting the motion of the image for each

of the motion detection areas; the second step of extracting, on the basis of the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas which has been detected at the first step, the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists; and the third step of enlarging the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists which has been extracted at the second step and displaying the enlarged image on a display device.

An example of the second step is one comprising the step of extracting, out of the motion detection areas, the motion detection area where the motion of the image which has been detected at the first step coincides with an abnormal motion pattern previously set as an area where an object making abnormal motion exists.

An example of the third step is one comprising the fourth step of grouping, out of the motion detection areas where an object making abnormal motion exists which have been extracted at the second step, the areas where an object making abnormal motion exists such that the areas connected to each other form one group, the fifth step of extracting, out of groups formed at the fourth step, the group

having the largest area, and finding the center of gravity of the extracted group, and the sixth step of scaling up the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the center of gravity found at the fifth step, and displaying the scaled-up image on a display device.

Brief Description of Drawings

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a monitoring system.

Fig. 2 is a flow chart showing the operation of the monitoring system.

Fig. 3 is a schematic view showing a motion detection area.

Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

Referring now to the drawings, an embodiment in a case where the present invention is applied to a monitoring system will be described.

Fig. 1 illustrates the configuration of the monitoring system.

The monitoring system comprises a video camera (a monitoring camera) 1 for imaging a subject, a camera signal processor 2 for processing an image signal (a camera signal) X outputted from the monitoring camera 1, and a display device 3 for displaying the image signal outputted from the

camera signal processor 2.

The monitoring camera 1 comprises a CCD 11, a correlation double sampling section (CDS) 12, an automatic gain control section (AGC) 13, and an analog-to-digital converting section (ADC) 14.

The image signal obtained by the CCD 11 is outputted through the correlation double sampling section (CDS) 12, the automatic gain control section (AGC) 13, and the analog-to-digital converting section (ADC) 14.

The camera signal processor 2 comprises a memory 21, motion detection means 22, abnormality detecting means 23, and image enlarging means 24.

The camera signal outputted from the monitoring camera 1 is fed to the memory 21 and is fed to the motion detection means 22. An image signal corresponding to one field is stored in the memory 21. The motion detection means 22 divides a screen corresponding to one field into 36 areas, for example, as shown in Fig. 3, and compares the screen with a screen corresponding to a field which is an arbitrary number of fields ahead of the one field for each of the areas (motion detection areas), to detect a motion vector for the motion detection area.

The abnormality detecting means 23 detects, on

the basis of the motion vector for each of the motion detection areas which has been detected by the motion detection means 22, the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists. The image enlarging means 24 enlarges the detected motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists which has been detected by the abnormality detecting means 23, to output the enlarged motion detection area as an image signal Y.

The abnormality detecting means 23 comprises a setting section 23a for previously setting an abnormal motion pattern in order to detect a motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists, and an abnormality presence/absence judging section 23b for judging whether or not there is a motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists within the screen corresponding to one field.

Specifically, the abnormal motion pattern is set in the setting section 23a by a motion component in the X direction and a motion component in the Y direction such that the horizontal motion component is m and the vertical motion component is n. In a case where the horizontal motion component is set

to 1, and the vertical motion component is set to 0, when a motion vector whose horizontal component is one or more is detected irrespective of whether it is moved in a horizontal direction or an oblique direction, it is judged that the motion detection area where the motion vector is detected is an area where an object making abnormal motion exists. In a case where both the horizontal motion component and the vertical motion component are set to 0, when a motion vector whose component is not less than zero is detected, it is judged that the motion detection area where the motion vector is detected is an area where an object making abnormal motion exists.

A normal motion pattern may be set in the setting section 23a. In this case, the motion detection area where the detected motion vector does not correspond to the normal motion pattern may be detected as a motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists.

The image enlarging means 24 comprises a group forming section 24a, a center-of-gravity detecting section 24b, a scaling-up section 24c, a center-of-gravity moving section 24d, a scaling-up releasing section 24e, and an output section 24f.

The group forming section 24a groups, out of the

motion detection areas where an object making abnormal motion exists which have been detected by the abnormality detecting means 23, the motion detection areas where an object making abnormal motion exists such that the motion detection areas connected to each other form one group.

The center-of-gravity detecting section 24b extracts the group having the largest area out of the plurality of groups formed by the group forming section 24a, to find the center of gravity of the group by performing an operation.

The scaling-up section 24c scales up a part of an image corresponding to one frame obtained from the monitoring camera 1, centered on the center of gravity found by the center-of-gravity detecting section 24b.

The center-of-gravity moving section 24d follows, when the center of gravity detected by the center-of-gravity detecting section 24b is moved in a state where a part of the image is scaled up by the scaling-up section 24c, the motion, to move the center of the enlarged image.

The scaling-up releasing section 24e releases the image scaling-up processing by the scaling-up section 24c when the abnormality presence/absence

judging section 23b in the abnormality detecting means 23 judges that there is no area where an object making abnormal motion exists.

The output section 24f outputs as an image signal Y the image data corresponding to one field stored in the memory 21 or data representing the image scaled up by the scaling-up section 24c.

Fig. 2 shows the operation of the monitoring system.

An image corresponding to one field is first picked up by the monitoring camera 1 (step 1). The image corresponding to one field which has been picked up by the monitoring camera 1 is stored in the memory 21 in the camera signal processor 2 and is fed to the motion detection means 22.

The motion detection means 22 then compares the fed image with an image inputted an arbitrary number of fields ahead of the image, to detect a motion vector for each of the motion detection areas shown in Fig. 3 (step 2).

The abnormality detecting means 23 then extracts the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists on the basis of the motion vector for each of the motion detection areas which has been detected at the step 2 (step 3).

Specifically, it is judged whether or not any of the motion vectors detected for the motion detection areas correspond to the abnormal motion pattern set in the setting section 23a, and extracts, if any one of the motion vectors corresponds to the abnormal motion pattern, the motion detection area as an area where an object making abnormal motion exists.

The motion detection area with "circle mark" out of the motion detection areas shown in Fig. 3 shall be extracted as an area where an area making abnormal motion exists.

It is then judged at the foregoing step 3 whether or not the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists is extracted (step 4). Specifically, it is judged whether or not any one of the motion detection areas is extracted as an area where an object making abnormal motion exists.

When it is judged that the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists is extracted, the group forming section 24a groups the motion detection areas where an object making abnormal motion exists out of the motion detection areas where an object making abnormal motion exists which have been extracted at the step 3 such that the motion detection areas connected to each other

form one group (step 5).

As shown in Fig. 3, the motion detection areas extracted as the areas where an object making abnormal motion exists shall be grouped to form three groups h, i, and j.

The center-of-gravity detecting section 24b then extracts the group having the largest area out of the groups formed by the group forming section 24a (step 6). In the example shown in Fig. 3, the group h is extracted as the group having the largest area.

The center-of-gravity detecting section 24b calculates the center of gravity of the group having the largest area which has been extracted at the step 6 (step 7). In the example shown in Fig. 3, the center of gravity of the group h is found. Specifically, the coordinates (xg, yg) of the center of gravity of each of six areas belonging to the group h are found, to find the average *xg of the X coordinates xg and the average *yg of the Y coordinates yg of the respective centers of gravity of the found areas. The coordinates (*xg, *yg) are the center of gravity of the group h.

It is then judged whether an image currently displayed on the display device 3 is an image scaled

up by the scaling-up section 24c or is an image (non-enlarged image) stored in the memory 21 (step 8).

When the image displayed on the display device 3 is the image stored in the memory 21, the scaling-up section 24c scales up the image stored in the memory 21, centered on the center of gravity found by the center-of-gravity detecting section 24b (step 9). The magnification at this time may be previously determined to be $\times 2$, for example, or may be changed depending on the size of the group to be scaled up. Data representing the image scaled up by the scaling-up section 24c is fed to the display device 3 through the output section 24f. Thereafter, the program is returned to the step 1. At the step 1, an image corresponding to the subsequent one field is then picked up.

When it is judged at the step 8 that the image currently displayed on the display device 3 is the image scaled up by the scaling-up section 24c, the center-of-gravity moving section 24d judges whether or not the center of gravity found at the step 7 is changed from the center of gravity found in the preceding field. If it is changed, a position at a destination of motion is found in accordance with

a predetermined rule, to move the position of the center of the image scaled up by the scaling-up section 24c to the position at the destination of motion (step 10). Thereafter, the program is returned to the step 1. At the step 1, an image corresponding to the subsequent one field is picked up.

The predetermined rule at the step 10 is such a rule that a relationship expressed by the following equation (1) holds, letting $(X(n-1), Y(n-1))$ be the center of gravity found in the preceding field, $(X(n0), Y(n0))$ be the center of gravity found in the current field, and $(X(n), Y(n))$ be the position at the destination of motion:

$$X(n) = X(n-1) + (X(n0) - X(n-1))k$$

$$Y(n) = Y(n-1) + (Y(n0) - Y(n-1))k \quad \cdots (1)$$

k in the equation (1) is a follow-up coefficient.

When the center of the enlarged image is suddenly moved to the center of gravity calculated in the current field from the center of gravity calculated in the preceding field, the center of gravity is greatly changed. Accordingly, the displayed image is rapidly changed, so that the image is difficult to see. Therefore, follow-up

characteristics are purposely delayed using the above-mentioned rule.

When it is judged at the foregoing step 4 that an area where an object making abnormal motion exists is not extracted, it is judged whether or not the image currently displayed on the display device 3 is an image scaled up by the scaling-up section 24c or is an image (non-enlarged image) stored in the memory 21 (step 11).

When the image displayed on the display device 3 is the image stored in the memory 21, the program is returned to the step 1. At the step 1, an image corresponding to the succeeding field is picked up. When the image displayed on the display device 3 is the image scaled up by the scaling-up section 24c, it is judged that there is no object making abnormal motion, so that there is no reason for enlarging the image. Accordingly, the scaling-up processing is released by the scaling-up releasing section 24e (step 12). Data representing the image stored in the memory 21 is fed to the display device 3 through the output section 24f. Thereafter, the program is returned to the step 1. At the step 1, an image corresponding to the succeeding field is picked up.

The above-mentioned processing is repeatedly

performed. When an object (subject) making abnormal motion exists in an image, therefore, the image can be scaled up, centered on a part of the subject, and displayed.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the motion detection means 22 detects a motion vector for each of motion detection areas, and the abnormality detecting means 23 judges whether or not there is a motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists on the basis of the motion vector for the motion detection area which has been detected by the motion detection means 22. The present invention is not limited to the same. The motion detection means 22 may detect the difference in luminance between the current field and a field which is an arbitrary number of fields ahead of the current field for each of motion detection areas, to judge whether or not there is a motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists on the basis of the difference in luminance for the motion detection area which has been detected by the motion detection means 22. For example, the motion detection area where the difference in luminance is not less than a predetermined value may be judged to be an area where an object making abnormal motion

exists.

The present invention detects and follows a subject making abnormal motion. Although the present invention is particularly suitable for a monitoring camera system, therefore, it can be utilized for a home video camera or the like.

CLAIMS

1. A camera signal processor characterized by comprising:

motion detection means for dividing an image picked up by imaging means into a plurality of motion detection areas, and detecting the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas;

extracting means for extracting, on the basis of the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas which has been detected by the motion detection means, the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists; and

image enlarging means for enlarging the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists which has been extracted by the extracting means and displaying the enlarged image on a display device.

2. The camera signal processor according to claim 1, characterized in that the extracting means extracts, out of the motion detection areas, the motion detection area where the motion of the image which has been detected by the motion detection means coincides with an abnormal motion pattern previously set as an area where an object making abnormal motion

exists.

3. The camera signal processor according to either one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the image enlarging means comprises

group forming means for grouping, out of the motion detection areas where an object making abnormal motion exists which have been extracted by the extracting means, the areas where an object making abnormal motion exists such that the areas connected to each other form one group,

center-of-gravity detecting means for extracting, out of groups formed by the group forming means, the group having the largest area, and finding the center of gravity of the extracted group, and

scaling-up means for scaling up the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the center of gravity found by the center-of-gravity detecting means, and displaying the scaled-up image on a display device.

4. A camera signal processing method characterized by comprising:

the first step of dividing an image picked up by imaging means into a plurality of motion detection areas, and detecting the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas;

the second step of extracting, on the basis of the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas which has been detected at the first step, the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists; and

the third step of enlarging the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists which has been extracted at the second step and displaying the enlarged image on a display device.

5. The camera signal processing method according to claim 4, characterized in that the second step comprises the step of extracting, out of the motion detection areas, the motion detection area where the motion of the image which has been detected at the first step coincides with an abnormal motion pattern previously set as an area where an object making abnormal motion exists.

6. The camera signal processing method according to either one of claims 4 and 5, characterized in that the third step comprises

the fourth step of grouping, out of the motion detection areas where an object making abnormal motion exists which have been extracted at the second

step, the areas where an object making abnormal motion exists such that the areas connected to each other form one group,

the fifth step of extracting, out of groups formed at the fourth step, the group having the largest area, and finding the center of gravity of the extracted group, and

the sixth step of scaling up the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the center of gravity found at the fifth step, and displaying the scaled-up image on a display device.

ABSTRACT

A camera signal processor comprises motion detection means for dividing an image picked up by imaging means into a plurality of motion detection areas, and detecting the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas, extracting means for extracting, on the basis of the motion of the image for each of the motion detection areas which has been detected by the motion detection means, the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists, and image enlarging means for enlarging the image picked up by the imaging means, centered on the motion detection area where an object making abnormal motion exists which has been extracted by the extracting means and displaying the enlarged image on a display device.

FIG. 1

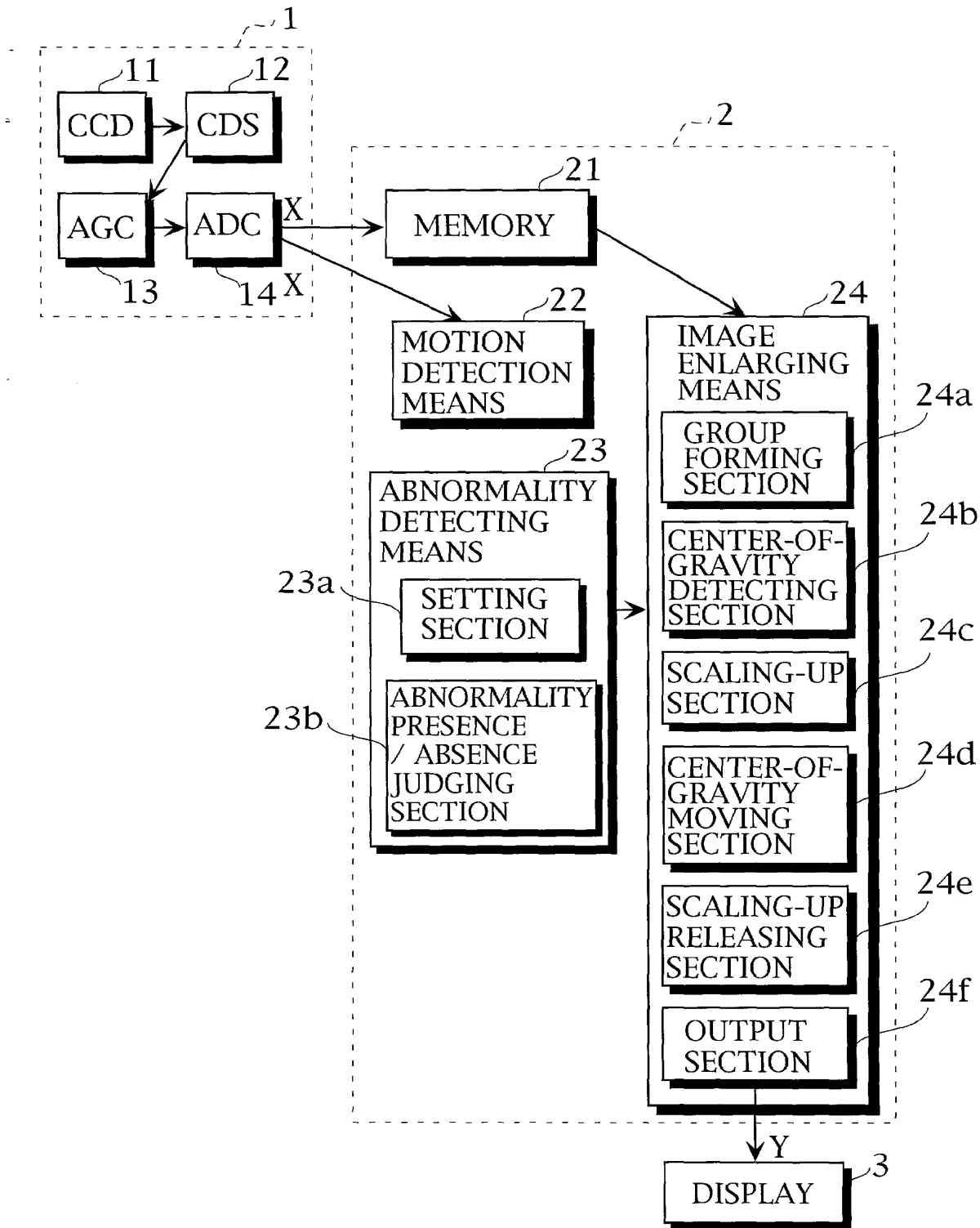


FIG. 2

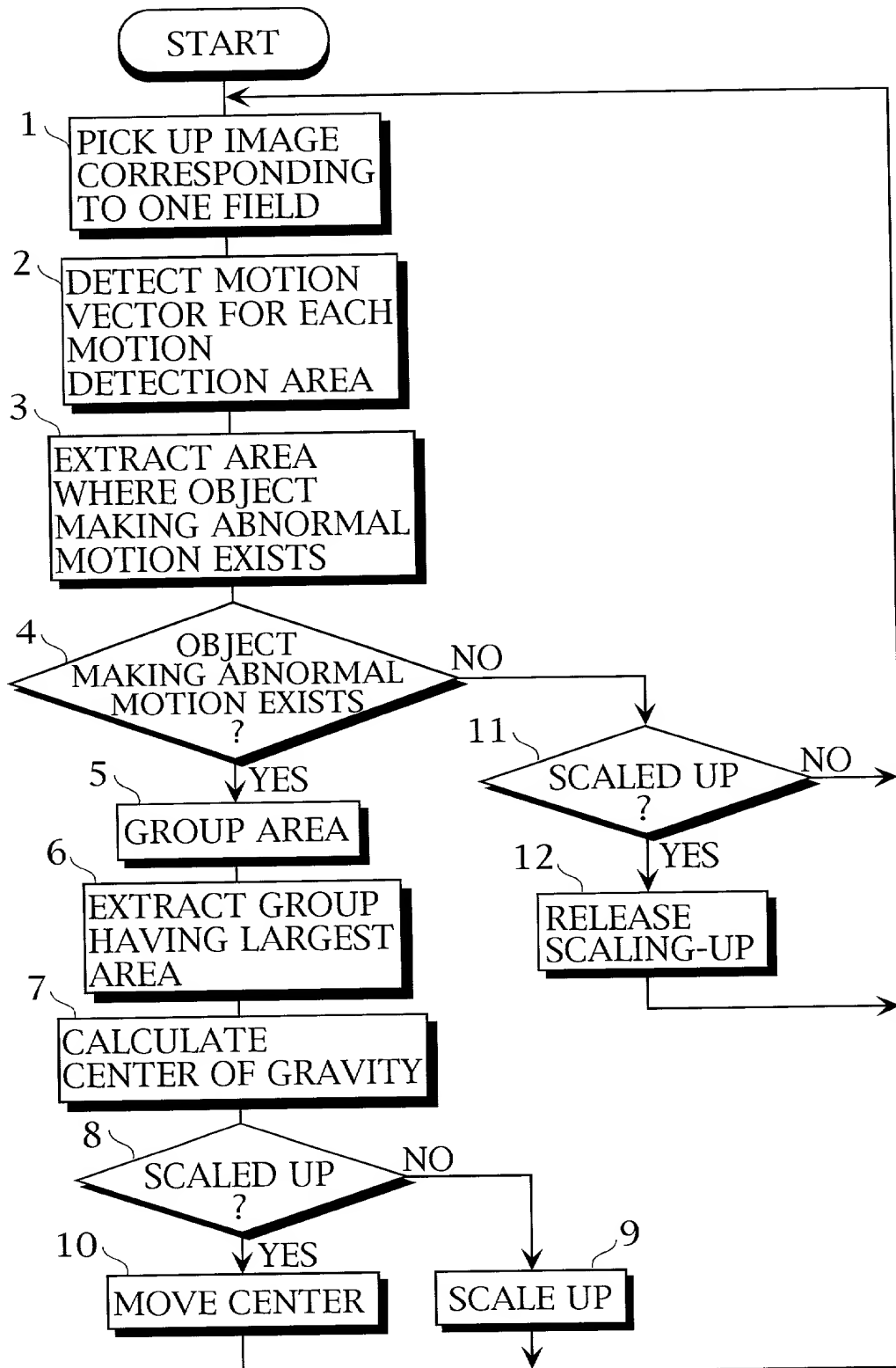
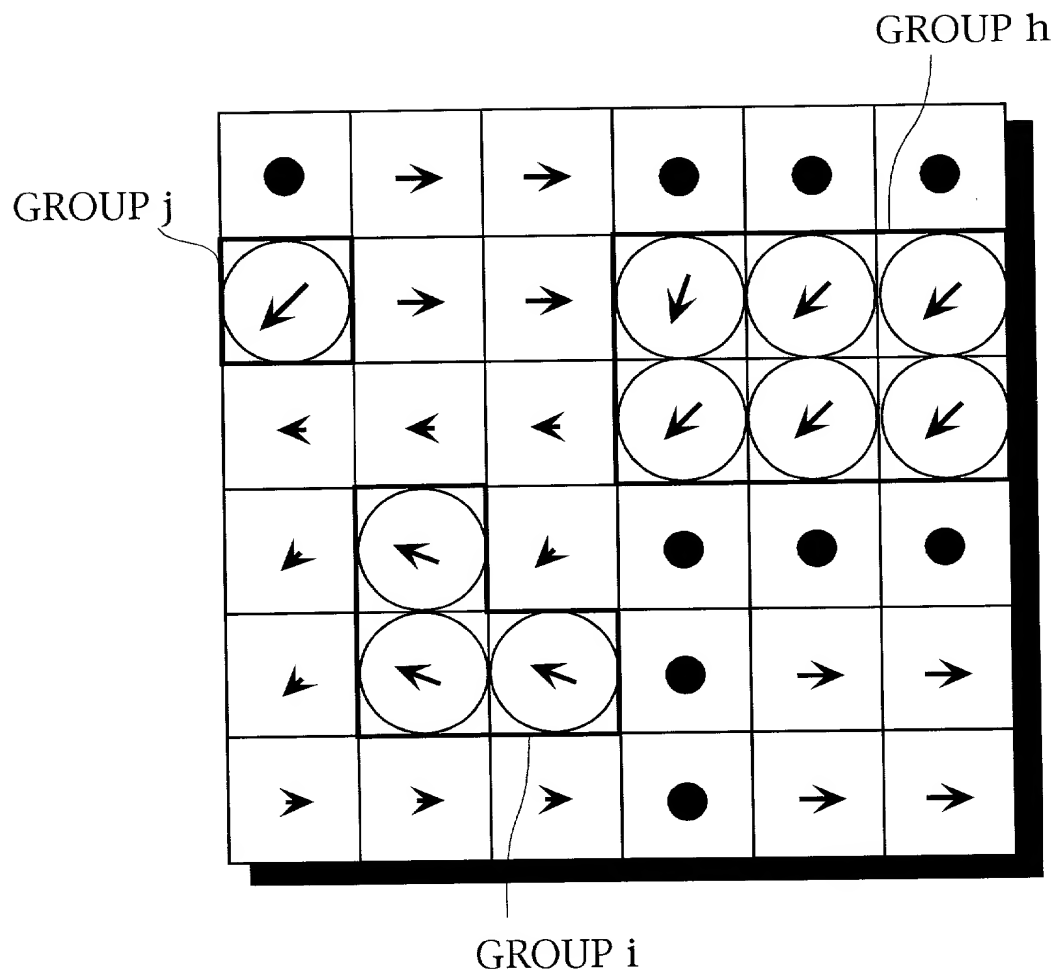


FIG. 3



Declaration For U.S. Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

(Insert Title) CAMERA SIGNAL PROCESSOR AND CAMERA SIGNAL PROCESSING METHOD

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☒ was filed on 07 March 2000 as PCT International Application
 Number PCT/JP00/01365 and was amended on _____
 and/or was filed on _____ as United States Application
 Number _____ and was amended on _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International Application having a filing date before that of the application(s) for which priority is claimed:

(List prior foreign applications. See note A on back of this page)	<u>11-061424</u> ✓	<u>Japan</u>	<u>09 March 1999</u> ✓	Priority Claimed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	
	(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number) _____ (Filing Date) _____

(Application Number) _____ (Filing Date) _____

(See Note B on back of this page)

☐ See attached list for additional prior foreign or provisional applications.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s) or §365(c) of any PCT International application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) (U.S. or PCT) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35, U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(List prior U.S. Applications or PCT International applications designating the U.S.)	(Application Serial No.) _____	(Filing Date) _____	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
	(Application Serial No.) _____	(Filing Date) _____	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

And I hereby appoint as principal attorneys: David T. Nikaido, Reg. No. 22,663; Charles M. Marmelstein, Reg. No. 25,895; George E. Oram, Jr., Reg. No. 27,931; Robert B. Murray, Reg. No. 22,980; E. Marcie Emas, Reg. No. 32,131; Douglas H. Goldhush, Reg. No. 33,125; Monica Chin Kitts, Reg. No. 36,105; Richard J. Berman, Reg. No. 39,107; King L. Wong, Reg. No. 37,500; James A. Poulos, III, Reg. No. 31,714; Patrick D. Muir, Reg. No. 37,403; Sharon N. Klesner, Reg. No. 36,335; Murat Ozgu, Reg. No. 44,275; Bradley D. Goldizen, Reg. No. 43,637, and N. Alexander Nolte, Reg. No. 45,689.

Please direct all communications to the following address:

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
 1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 600
 Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
 Telephone No. (202) 857-6000; Facsimile No. (202) 857-6395

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

(See Note C on back of this page)

Full name of sole or first inventor Yukio MORI
 Inventor's signature Yukio Mori
 Residence Hirakata-shi, Osaka, Japan JPX Date Oct 18, 2000
 Citizenship Japanese
 Post Office Address c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.,
5-5, Keihanondori 2-chome, Moriguchi-shi, Osaka 570-0083, Japan

2-00 Full name of second joint inventor, if any Seiji OKADA
Inventor's signature Seiji Okada 18 Oct 2000
Residence Moriguchi-shi, Osaka, Japan JPX Date
Citizenship Japanese
Post Office Address c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.,
5-5, Keihanhondori 2-chome, Moriguchi-shi, Osaka 570-0083, Japan

3-00 Full name of third joint inventor, if any Shoichi HASEGAWA
Inventor's signature Shoichi Hasegawa 18 Oct 2000
Residence Osaka-shi, Osaka, Japan JPX Date
Citizenship Japanese
Post Office Address c/o Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.,
5-5, Keihanhondori 2-chome, Moriguchi-shi, Osaka 570-0083, Japan

Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any _____
Inventor's signature _____ Date
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____

Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any _____
Inventor's signature _____ Date
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____

Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any _____
Inventor's signature _____ Date
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____

Full name of seventh joint inventor, if any _____
Inventor's signature _____ Date
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____

Full name of eighth joint inventor, if any _____
Inventor's signature _____ Date
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____

Full name of ninth joint inventor, if any _____
Inventor's signature _____ Date
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____